

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Forces Shaping the Earth**

*The World and Its People, Pages 34 - 37*

### **Inside the Earth**

In the center of the \_\_\_\_\_ is a dense core of \_\_\_\_\_ mixed with other metals and \_\_\_\_\_. The inner core is \_\_\_\_\_, but the outer core is so \_\_\_\_\_ it has \_\_\_\_\_. Surrounding the core is the \_\_\_\_\_, a thick layer of rock about \_\_\_\_\_ miles thick. The section nearest the \_\_\_\_\_ remains solid, but sometimes the \_\_\_\_\_ mantle melts. This melted (or molten) rock is called \_\_\_\_\_. It flows to the surface during a \_\_\_\_\_.

The outer layer of the Earth is the \_\_\_\_\_, which is only \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ miles thick. The crust includes the \_\_\_\_\_ floors and the seven \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Plate Movements**

The Theory of Plate Tectonics states that the Earth's \_\_\_\_\_ consists of \_\_\_\_\_ or huge slabs of \_\_\_\_\_ that move. The plates \_\_\_\_\_ on top of liquid \_\_\_\_\_ just below the crust. They move, but often in \_\_\_\_\_ directions. Oceans and \_\_\_\_\_ sit on these gigantic \_\_\_\_\_.

South America and \_\_\_\_\_ were once joined together in a landmass that scientists call \_\_\_\_\_. Millions of \_\_\_\_\_ ago, \_\_\_\_\_ activity caused the \_\_\_\_\_ to move apart. The plates are still \_\_\_\_\_ today, but they move so \_\_\_\_\_ that you do not feel it.

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**When Plates Meet**

The \_\_\_\_\_ of the earth's plates has actually \_\_\_\_\_ the surface. Sometimes the plates \_\_\_\_\_ or pull away from each other. Sometimes the plates push \_\_\_\_\_ each other. When this happens, one of three \_\_\_\_\_ occurs, depending on what kinds of \_\_\_\_\_ are involved.

If two \_\_\_\_\_ plates \_\_\_\_\_ into each other, the collision produces \_\_\_\_\_ ranges. This kind of collision produced the \_\_\_\_\_ Mountains in South Asia.

If a \_\_\_\_\_ plate and an ocean \_\_\_\_\_ move against each other, the thicker \_\_\_\_\_ plate slides over the \_\_\_\_\_ ocean plate. The \_\_\_\_\_ force of the lower plate causes \_\_\_\_\_ to build up. Then, as \_\_\_\_\_ it erupts to form \_\_\_\_\_ mountains. Another result \_\_\_\_\_ occur from the \_\_\_\_\_ that builds up between the two \_\_\_\_\_ plates. The pressure may cause one plate to \_\_\_\_\_ suddenly. The result is an \_\_\_\_\_, or a sudden and \_\_\_\_\_ movement of the earth's \_\_\_\_\_.

Earthquakes can be very \_\_\_\_\_ to both structures and human \_\_\_\_\_. Undersea \_\_\_\_\_ can cause huge waves called \_\_\_\_\_. These waves may reach as high as 98 feet, and cause severe \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ towns.

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Sometimes two plates move alongside each other. This movement creates \_\_\_\_\_  
or cracks in the earth's \_\_\_\_\_. Violent \_\_\_\_\_ can happen near  
these faults. One of the most famous faults in the United States is the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ in California.

**Reading Check:**

*Which layer of the earth is the thinnest?*

\_\_\_\_\_

*What happens when two continental plates collide?*

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